6. POLYCARPON Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 859, 881, 1360. 1759.

多荚草属 duo jia cao shu

Lu Dequan (鲁德全); Michael G. Gilbert

Herbs annual or perennial. Stems diffuse or erect, usually branched. Leaves opposite, sometimes apparently verticillate, sessile or indistinctly petiolate; leaf blade obovate or spatulate; stipules membranous. Inflorescence a cymose cluster, axillary or terminal; bracts scarious. Flowers small. Sepals 5, margin hyaline, midvein raised abaxially into rounded fleshy keel. Petals often fewer than 5, hyaline, less than 1/2 as long as sepals. Stamens 3–5; filaments \pm united at base. Ovary 1-loculed with numerous ovules; style short, 3-lobed. Fruit a capsule, 3-valved, several seeded.

About 16 species: tropics and subtropics; one species in China.

1. Polycarpon prostratum (Forsskål) Ascherson & Schweinfurth in Ascherson, Oesterr. Bot. Z. 39: 128. 1889.

多荚草 duo jia cao

Alsine prostrata Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 207. 1775; Loeflingia indica Retzius; Pharnaceum depressum Linnaeus; *Polycarpon indicum* (Retzius) E. D. Merrill; P. loeflingii Wight & Arnott ex Bentham. Plants annual. Stems prostrate or ascending, ± woody at base, 10-25 cm, pubescent or glabrous. Leaf blade obovate or spatulate, $5-15(-25) \times 1.5-2.5(-5)$ mm, glabrous, base attenuate, apex acute. Cymes often axillary, sometimes rather lax, 2–4 cm; bracts stipulelike. Pedicel short or absent, pilose. Sepals lanceolate, 2.5-3(-4) mm, apex obtuse, \pm hooded. Petals often fewer than 5, oblong, less than 1/2 as long as sepals, entire. Stamens 3(-5), shorter than sepals. Capsule ovoid, shorter than sepals. Seed light brown, cylindric, with raised lateral hylum, reticulate, ca. 0.5 mm. Fl. Feb-May, fr. May-Jun.

On open sands, farmlands; 300–1500 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [tropical regions of Asia and Africa].